Local Government and Communities Committee

Consideration of the Council Tax (Substitution of Proportion) (Scotland) Order 2016

Submission from Laura Reid

Please find below my answers to the proposed questions:

1. Overall, do you support the principles of the Government's plans to reform Council Tax?

    No, I feel that the whole system needs revamped. I think it should be based on household income rather than a band that was allocated to homes in the 1990’s, where decades on, towns and housing markets have drastically changed.

2. To what extent will the Government's proposed reforms make the system of Council Tax fairer?

    I do not think that they will be fairer.

    I currently live in a house that is classified as Band E which I bought for £140000 two years ago. Our household has a relatively low income receiving child tax credits, I feel that the percentage of our household income I spend on council tax is much higher in comparison to other properties taking into account house prices and incomes.

3. To what extent will the changes be straightforward for local authorities to implement?

    I think what is fair to the householder is of much more importance than how local authorities choose to implement the needed changes.

4. Do you support the Government’s planned changes to Council Tax reductions?

    No, I do believe some people would be in a position to afford to pay more, but many people in bands D and above are average families, working extremely hard to afford the homes they have and the changes would severely affect myself and my family as we do not have any disposable income to be able to afford such a large increase in additional tax.

5. Please add any other comments on any aspect of the proposed reforms.
I make a lot of sacrifices to be able to afford to live in my home and we as a family have chosen living in modest area, as a priority for us. By increasing the tax, this could force us from our home and all that we have worked for.

Mrs Laura Reid